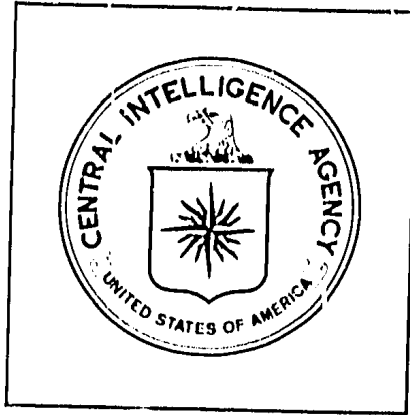


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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

State Department review completed

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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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New Faces on the Soviet General Staff

Three major personnel changes in the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces could presage further reshuffling as the appointees establish their personal staffs. The new faces in the military high command are:

--Lt. Gen. Viktor Yakovlevich Abolins, Deputy Chief of the General Staff. Abolins, whose appointment as deputy chief was first noted on July 19, had last been identified in 1974 as a major general and chief of staff of the Carpathian Military District. He had served as commander of the 30th Motorized Rifle Division with the Central Group of Forces in Czechoslovakia in 1970 and was believed to be stationed in the Moscow Military District as of 1972. Abolins' appointment may be an effort to beef up the General Staff command, or he may have replaced one of the incumbent deputies to the Chief of the General Staff, Army Gen. Viktor Kulikov.

--Lt. Gen. of Aviation Georgiy Petrovich Skorikov, Chief of the Main Directorate of Foreign Military Assistance (10th Directorate). Skorikov, 55, was promoted to his new post in April, after serving for at least 2 years as the directorate's deputy chief. He succeeds 74-year-old Nikolay Dagayev, who retired. Before his assignment to the 10th Directorate, Skorikov had served with the Soviet Air Force in Germany during the late 1960s, probably as deputy chief of staff.

--Maj. Gen. Makhmut Akhmetovich Gareyev, Chief of the Military Scientific Directorate. Gareyev was identified in his new post in April, when he attended a military-scientific conference of the Warsaw Pact Forces held in Moscow. He had previously served as chief of staff of the Ural Military District. [REDACTED]

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CHRONOLOGY

July 22

[REDACTED]

Hungary announces that its delegation to the CSCE summit-level finale will be led by party chief Kadar, Premier Lazar, and Foreign Minister Puja.

[REDACTED]

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Romanian President Ceausescu informs the Central Committee that at least 62 Romanians have died as a result of the recent floods. [REDACTED]

25X1

Izvestia offers the first, belated Soviet media report on the Islamic conference at Jidda; it omits any mention of the conference resolution to seek the suspension of Israel from the UN. [REDACTED]

25X1

Foreign Trade Minister Patolichev confers in Moscow with US-Soviet Trade and Economic Council president Scott.

[REDACTED]

25X1

Cook Industries of the US announces the sale of 1 million metric tons of winter wheat to the USSR, raising the total of recent Soviet grain purchases in the West to 14.5 million metric tons.

[REDACTED]

25X1

Two Soviet naval vessels pass through the Suez Canal from south to north, the first transit of the canal by such vessels since it reopened on June 6.

[REDACTED]

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July 22

An Egyptian delegation led by Finance Minister Ismail goes to the USSR for further talks on rescheduling Cairo's indebtedness to Moscow. [REDACTED]

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Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan concludes an extended stay in Romania. [REDACTED]

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USSR and Bulgaria sign in Sofia an agreement on cooperation in producing equipment for nuclear power stations. [REDACTED]

Mongolian Defense Minister Dorj concludes an official visit to Hungary. [REDACTED]

25X1

Western newsmen for the first time are allowed to visit the USSR's Space Research Institute in suburban Moscow. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 23

A Czechoslovak emigre publication publishes another letter from former party leader Dubcek questioning the "socialist credentials" of present party/state chief Husak. [REDACTED]

25X1

President Ford confers with Soviet Ambassador to the US Dobrynin. [REDACTED]

25X1

Chinese Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Chen Chieh arrives in Moscow for final negotiations on the 1975 Sino-Soviet trade agreement. [REDACTED]

25X1

Soviet cosmonauts Leonov and Kubasov return to Star City outside Moscow but are not met by Brezhnev or other top Soviet leaders. [REDACTED]

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July 23

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Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Pacoste tells the US he is "almost positive" he will attend the nonaligned ministerial conference at Lima next month as an invited observer. [REDACTED]

25X1

Izvestia commentary refers to "this current difficult year" in the Soviet grain harvest. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 24

East Germany discloses that its delegation to the CSCE summit-level finale at Helsinki will be led by party chief Honecker, Politburo member Axen, and Foreign Minister Fischer. [REDACTED]

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Polish party chief Gierek confers with GDR party leader Honecker, who is vacationing in Poland. [REDACTED]

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Sino-Soviet trade agreement for 1975--worth an estimated \$300 million--is signed in Moscow. [REDACTED]

25X1

US reduces its estimate of the Soviet grain harvests during 1975 to 185 million metric tons; Secretary Butz predicts the USSR may have to buy as much grain as it did in 1972, its record year for importing grain. [REDACTED]

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July 24

Yugoslav-EC mixed commission convenes at the ministerial level in Brussels for a one-day meeting. [REDACTED]

25X1

French Prime Minister Chirac begins a five-day, official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

GDR Deputy Premier Weiss concludes a one-week official visit to Cuba for talks on bilateral economic cooperation. [REDACTED]

25X1

Premier Bijedic tells the US that Yugoslavia opposes the expulsion of Israel from the UN. [REDACTED]

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July 25

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[REDACTED]

Foreign Minister Gromyko indicates to Ambassador Stoessel that the USSR will seek to avoid taking any position on the issue of Israel's expulsion from the UN. [REDACTED]

25X1

Tass announces that the USSR's delegation to the CSCE summit-level finale at Helsinki will be led by Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Gromyko. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Bulgaria announces that its CSCE summit delegation will be led by party/state chief Zhivkov and Foreign Minister Mladenov. [REDACTED]

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July 25 Admiral Gorshkov delivers the principal speech in Moscow to observe Soviet Navy Day. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 26 President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger leave the US for a tour of Central and Eastern Europe in conjunction with the CSCE summit-level finale at Helsinki. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Czechoslovakia announces that its delegation to the CSCE summit-level finale will be led by party/state chief Husak and will include Premier Strougal and Foreign Minister Chnoupek. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 27 Turkish opposition leader Ecevit concludes an official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

Japanese newsmen in Pyongyang are told by a senior North Korean official that party/state chief Kim Il-song plans to visit Moscow "in the near future." [REDACTED]

25X1

July 28 President Ford begins a brief state visit to Poland. [REDACTED]

25X1

Brezhnev leaves Moscow for Helsinki by train. [REDACTED]

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July 28 Romanian Deputy Defense Minister Gomoia begins a five-day, official visit to the USSR. [REDACTED]

25X1

US House of Representatives completes congressional approval of a bill granting MFN status to Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

Canada closes its Atlantic Coast ports to the Soviet fishing fleet. [REDACTED]

25X1

French Prime Minister Chirac concludes his official visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

July 29 President Ford visits Krakow, Poland, and the nearby site of the Auschwitz concentration camp before proceeding to Finland for the CSCE summit session.

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FUTURE EVENTS

July 30 CSCE summit-level finale to open at Helsinki. [REDACTED]

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August 1 CSCE agreements to be signed. [REDACTED]

25X1

August 2 President Ford to begin a state visit to Romania. [REDACTED]

25X1

August 3 President Ford to begin a two-day, state visit to Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

25X1

August 4 US-Soviet Trade and Economic Council president Scott to arrive in Budapest on official business. [REDACTED]

25X1

Speaker Albert to head congressional delegation visiting the USSR, Romania, and Yugoslavia. [REDACTED]

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25X1

August 5 US-Soviet Trade and Economic Council
president Scott to arrive in Sofia
on official business. [REDACTED]

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August 26 Yugoslav Foreign Minister Minc to
be in Lima, Peru, for the opening
session of the conference of foreign
ministers of the nonaligned states.

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